

**Fall 2019 Unified Agenda
Tab D, Statement of Regulatory Priorities**

Notes:

- *This document is the Statement of Regulatory Priorities. It comprises the rules SSA has designated for our Regulatory Plan – i.e., the subset of Fall 2019 Agenda rules that we have designated as our highest priorities. The formatting, including the font, are dictated by OMB and GSA (the latter agency coordinates the mechanics of assembling the Unified Agenda).*
- *We will submit this document electronically to OMB. GSA will publish it in the Federal Register as a combined document along with the Statements of Regulatory Priorities of all other agencies.*

SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION (SSA)

I. Statement of Regulatory Priorities

We administer the Retirement, Survivors, and Disability Insurance programs under title II of the Social Security Act (Act), the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program under title XVI of the Act, and the Special Veterans Benefits program under title VIII of the Act. As directed by Congress, we also assist in administering portions of the Medicare program under title XVIII of the Act. Our regulations codify the requirements for eligibility and entitlement to benefits and our procedures for administering these programs. Generally, our regulations do not impose burdens on the private sector or on State or local governments, except for the States' Disability Determination Services. We fully fund the Disability Determination Services in advance or via reimbursement for necessary costs in making disability determinations.

The entries in our regulatory plan (plan) represent issues of major importance to the Agency. Through our regulatory plan, we intend to:

- A. Streamline and improve the efficiency of the disability appeals process;
- B. Update SSA disability evaluation criteria; and
- C. Modify the frequency of continuing disability reviews under certain circumstances.

Regulatory Reform

We designate all of the proposed regulations in this plan as “fully or partially exempt” under E.O. 13771. In compliance with the Administration’s Regulatory Reform efforts, as prescribed by E.O. 13771 and E.O. 13777, SSA is committed to engaging in regulatory activity only when strictly necessary and to reducing regulatory burden wherever appropriate. Accordingly, our Unified Agenda and Regulatory Plan include only those regulatory activities needed to administer our Social Security benefits and payments programs. Finally, we remain committed to innovate in ways that ease burden on the public even outside the realm of formal de-regulation, such as through developing online reporting and application tools.

II. Regulations in the Proposed Rule Stage

Our regulations will:

- Clarify that administrative appeals judges from our Appeals Council may hold hearings and issue decisions (RIN 0960-AI25);
- Revise how we make disability determinations and decisions for adults by modifying the criteria in which we assess vocational factors (RIN 0960-AI40); and
- Add a new category to the existing medical diary categories that we use to schedule continuing disability reviews and revise the criteria we follow to place a case in each of the categories (0960-AI27).

III. Regulations in the Final Rule Stage

Our regulation in the final rule stage will:

- Clarify our authority to set the manner of appeals before an Administrative Law Judge and Disability Hearing Officer to help make the hearings process more efficient (RIN 0960-AI09); and
- Revise how we make disability determinations and decisions for adults by removing the consideration of one’s ability to communicate in English (RIN 0960-AH86).

Retrospective Review of Existing Regulations

Pursuant to section 6 of Executive Order 13563, "Improving Regulation and Regulatory Review" (January 18, 2011), SSA regularly engages in retrospective review and analysis for multiple existing regulatory initiatives. These initiatives may be proposed or completed actions, and they do not necessarily appear in The Regulatory Plan. You can find more information on these completed rulemakings in past publications of the Unified Agenda at www.reginfo.gov in the "Completed Actions" section for the Social Security Administration.